TO: Faculty Assembly  
SUNY Oswego

FROM: Department of Vocational Teacher Preparation  
Benjamin Ogwo, Chair

DATE: 04 October 2017

RE: Department Name Change

PROPOSED NEW NAME: Department of Career and Technical Educator Preparation

JUSTIFICATION FOR THE NAME CHANGE:

The field of vocational education continues to evolve in different spheres namely knowledge on how students acquire new occupational skills, the value society places on employable skills acquisition as well as the prestige associated with the studying occupational courses. Nationally, the most significant change in vocational education is its renaming to career and technical education by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Improvement Act of 2006. Among other things, the Perkins Act postulates that by changing the term vocational education to career and technical education, it will improve the academic prestige accorded vocational courses in schools and colleges. Sequel to the signing of the Perkins Act, the Federal and State departments of education have renamed their vocational education units to career and technical education. For example, the New York State Education Department has renamed its vocational education area to Career and technical education and within the SUNY system, the Buffalo State University has also renamed its Vocational Education Department to Career and Technical Education.

Furthermore, the current name focusing on teacher preparation underrepresents and misrepresents the fact that we also prepare trainer who develop the workforce needed in private companies, corporations, not-for-profit organizations, cooperative extensions, and shelter workshops. We opted for the term educator to adequately reflect the fact that we prepare teachers (middle schools, high schools, career and technical education centres, community colleges, colleges of technology, career colleges, correctional institutions, universities) and trainers working outside the formal school system.

Finally, when applying for grants, interacting with colleagues, and the NYSED, the current name suggests that we are out of tune with the trend in the discipline. Indeed, the current name does not reflect the department’s leadership role in advancing knowledge and practices of preparing qualified teachers and trainers who in turn facilitate students’ acquisition of the technical skills, knowledge and attitude required in their chosen occupation.